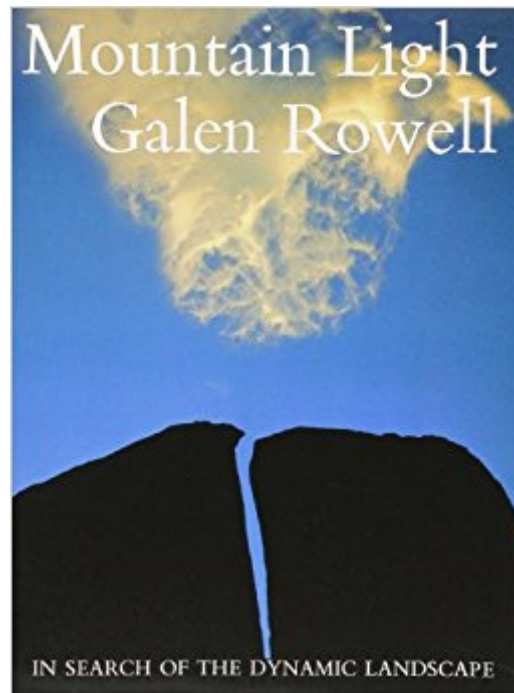




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Mountain Light: In Search Of The Dynamic Landscape



Synopsis

No photographer was more deeply engaged with the transformative interaction of light and landscape than Galen Rowell. The preeminent outdoor photographer of his time, he spent his career chasing magic light in the high places of the planet. Into this landmark volume he poured all his insights gleaned from those adventures, assembling galleries of his most memorable images to illustrate them. The photographs are arranged in eight exhibits according to the many qualities of light found in mountain environments. Rowell also shares the stories that went into their creation; what he was after and how he achieved it, from preparation and "previsualizing" to the physical challenges of being in the right place at exactly the right time. In addition to explaining how he worked with optical phenomena and natural light, the book traces his development as a photographer; in terms of both philosophy and technique; and recounts his adventures in some of the most remote, dangerous, and beautiful places on Earth. A generation of photographers has learned from the experience, craft, and vision that Rowell passed on in this book, as will future generations. And all who respond to dynamic outdoor imagery will continue to marvel at his achievements. The acclaimed landscape photographer David Muench contributes an illuminating foreword to this new edition.

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Customer Reviews

A leading photojournalist, Rowell here offers pictures of mountains around the world with brief

essays describing how the photo was composed and shot. PW's view of these prints was positive: "This is a gem, the perfect gift for camera buffs, nature lovers, virtually anybody." Copyright 1987 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Rowell (Mountains of the Middle Kingdom) is preeminent among photographers of mountains. His creations carry extraordinary visual impact: the affinity for light that marks his personal vision is supported by superb technical achievement. His abilities as a climber have allowed access to some of the world's most remote landscapes. This book presents 80 of Rowell's favorite photographs, grouped according to instructive similarities ("Light Against Light," "Integrated Vision," etc.). Accompanying descriptions cover not only technical data but the circumstances which surrounded the making of the image. The quality of reproduction is in keeping with the high Sierra Club standards. Necessary for serious photography collections. Jim Heckel, Lewis & Clark Lib., Helena, Mont. Copyright 1986 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

This book can be summed up in one line the author writes in the Preface, "the best photographs speak for themselves". In this book, Rowell presents 80 of his favorite images that he made over the course of his explorations, mountaineering and adventures. He also reveals the art, craft and philosophy behind his world-famous images. Unless you are an extreme adventurer, you may never be able to visit the places he visited and make images similar to the ones he did. Let that not discourage you; this book teaches you "how to see" and not merely "look" as most of us do. As Rowell writes in another book, "without a guiding visualization, two camera positions only a step apart might as well be on different planets". Lucky for you, you have to look no further for your "guiding visualization". The chapters are alternated between personal essays and what he calls "exhibits". The book is worth every penny if you skip every word in it and only appreciate the images. There's a reason that New York Times praised this book as "the classiest 'how-to' text on landscape color photography ever published". All the images in the book are made with Film cameras (the book first came out in 1985, this is a reprint). None of the images are digitally altered or (photo) "shopped". Once again, that goes to show that it is not the camera that matters, it is who is behind it. I conclude my review saying that if you are planning to buy one single book on landscape photography, buy this one. You'll later thank me for the suggestion.

As a photographer, Galen's words and images changed how I viewed the outdoors and ultimately added to my own experience. Thank you Galen, your legacy of exploration lives on. Michael Ashton

Writer/Photographer.

Good advice for landscape photography. Many things to consider before taking photos - lighting, composition, depth of field, etc. Very enjoyable read about photography and Mountain Climbing.

The best way to learn is from a master, and Galen Rowell was indisputably one of the great masters of nature photography. Even though this book is 25+ years old, and as a result all the technical advice is for film, most of what is covered will never go out of date. His thoughts on composition and light are must-reads for any nature photographer. If you only buy one how-to book about photographing the American West, this should be the one.

Purchased as a gift for a friend who is a wonderful photographer, but lives abroad where it is difficult to locate. She is pleased, and feels it will help her to do better (which is difficult for me to imagine, as she is excellent).

The most negative review here is by someone who liked the pictures but hated what the reviewer saw as a demonstration of Rowell's ego in the text. I liked the text and enjoyed the detailed stories that went along with each picture. The text does involve Rowell talking about what he thought at the time he took the pictures, but I didn't view it as an unwarranted ego trip, the pictures are beautiful and Rowell need not be apologetic about having taken them. Having said that, the book will do next to nothing for most amateur photographers as far as teaching them skills, a lot of the photographs in circumstances unlikely to be encountered by the weekend photographer. I guess the major take away is: find a good composition and wait for dusk, or dawn.

Galen was not only a great photographer but a great writer too. If you'd like some insight into how a photographer works, then this is a good book for you. He gives you tons of useful advice and will help your photography no matter what your level. Forget the haters that have reviewed this book. Galen may not have been that good at interacting with people, but he is a great teacher.

IF you love the mountains and the feeling they give you as you take in their grandeur...or if you love photographing these majestic places, this book will likely become one of your favorites. As a landscape photographer, I've poured over literally thousands of landscape photos - in books, slides and magazines - but the work of Galen Rowell stands alone in the realm of mountain landscapes.

As Arthus-Bertrand has mastered photography from above (aerial) and Doubilet from below (undersea), Rowell has mastered the mountains. If you pay attention to his photos and read what Rowell has to say about the making of each, you will begin to "see the light" - quite literally. No one captures the ethereal like Galen Rowell. He has the rare ability to sense and then photograph those fleeting moments that most (even many photographers) only daydream about. His photos will not only impress your eyes but they will tug at your soul. If ever a collection of photographs defined the majesty and mystery of mountains, this is it.

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